

DOCTOR WHO RADIO TIMES SURVIVAL

ORIGINAL BROADCAST – 22 November to 6 December 1989

LETTERS – Issues Dated 28 November to 1 December 1989,
13-19 January 1990 & 27 January to 2 February 1990

Star gazing

Who are those shopkeepers in Wednesday's *Doctor Who*? (BBC1). If you say the two Rons, you're wrong, Ron – but it is **HALE AND PACE**... Guests on *Eggs 'n' Baker* (Saturday BBC1) are **ASWAD**, who also wrote the theme tune for the BBC2 series *The State of Europe*.



All-round trouble: the Doctor (Sylvester McCoy) and Ace (Sophie Aldred) find that nostalgia ain't what it used to be
Doctor Who, 7.35pm BBC1

7.35pm

Doctor Who

starring **Sylvester McCoy**.

Survival

Part one of a three-part adventure by **Rona Munro**. The Doctor takes Ace on a sentimental journey to her old neighbourhood, only to find that something nasty is stalking the streets of Perivale.

Woman..... **KATHLEEN BIDMEAD**

Ace..... **SOPHIE ALDRED**

The Master... **ANTHONY AINLEY**

Paterson..... **JULIAN HOLLOWAY**

Stuart..... **SEAN OLIVER**

Harvey..... **NORMAN PACE**

Len..... **GARETH HALE**

Ange..... **KATE EATON**

Karra..... **LISA BOWERMAN**

Shreela..... **SAKUNTALA RAMANEE**

Midge..... **WILL BARTON**

Derek..... **DAVID JOHN**

Theme music composed by
RON GRAINER

Incidental music **DOMINIC GLYNN**

Costume designer **KEN TREW**

Script editor **ANDREW CARTMEL**

Designer **NICK SOMERVILLE**

Producer **JOHN NATHAN-TURNER**

Director **ALAN WAREING**

● **CEEFAX SUBTITLES**

Doctor Who . . . the future

The current *Doctor Who* adventure (Wednesdays BBC1), *The Curse of Fenric*, looks like being one of the very best McCoy stories. Word has it, however, that ratings for the new season have been poor. The fault lies not with the programme but with its scheduling against *Coronation Street* on ITV. Tuesday at 7.00 or Sunday at 7.15 would be much better slots.

Doctor Who is part of British culture and deserves to continue. The new movie

and the fact that it is BBC Enterprise's biggest seller are just two points in favour of a new season next year. Rumour has it that the next series may be produced by an independent company. This, along with an increased episode count, could do the series a world of good.

Axing *Doctor Who* now would leave a gap in many people's lives. It has a lot more left in it than certain situation comedies the BBC insist on bringing back again and again.

*D. I. Wheeler
Penrith, Cumbria*

☐ We want Who

I hope that Jonathan Powell gets the sack as soon as possible as Controller, BBC1. His decision to axe *Doctor Who* at the end of its present series shows that he doesn't understand what people really want. We want *Doctor Who* to continue.

*Alan Dobbie
London N22*

☐ Dead of neglect

I'm sure most people are aware that *Doctor Who* is in its final year. More than likely it will be axed before or during December. After 26 years the time-travels on television will be frozen within a time-warp. Does the BBC actually care though?

I do, in fact, feel very bitter at the BBC's dismissive attitude towards ► 85

83 ◀ the programme: it receives a relatively small budget, it is placed against *Coronation Street* on a Wednesday, it has little or no coverage from *Radio Times*.

*Simon Allen
Harrogate, North Yorkshire*

PETER CREGEEN, Head of Series, Drama, Television, replies: *I would like to reassure 'Doctor Who' devotees that there are no plans to axe 'Doctor Who'. There may be a little longer between this series and the next than usual, but I very much hope that it will continue to be as successful in the 90s as it has been for the last 26 years.*

7.35pm

Doctor Who

Starring Sylvester McCoy.
Survival

Part two of a three-part
adventure by Rona Munro.
The Hunting World is a
dangerous place. The
Cheetah people may track
you, hunt you and kill you.
But that's not the danger.

Paterson.....JULIAN HOLLOWAY

The Master..... ANTHONY AINLEY

Ace.....SOPHIE ALDRED

Shreela.....SAKUNTALA RAMANEE

Midge.....WILL BARTON

Derek..... DAVID JOHN

Karra..... LISA BOWERMAN

Incidental music DOMINIC GLYNN

Stunt arranger PAUL HEASMAN

Make-up designer JOAN STRIBLING

Script editor ANDREW CARTMEL

Designer NICK SOMERVILLE

Producer JOHN NATHAN-TURNER

Director ALAN WAREING

● CEEFAX SUBTITLES

7.35pm

Doctor Who

Starring Sylvester McCoy.

Survival

Final part of an adventure
by Rona Munro.

The Doctor and Ace move
towards their final
confrontation with the
animal inside us all.

The Master..... ANTHONY AINLEY

Midge..... WILL BARTON

Paterson..... JULIAN HOLLOWAY

Derek..... DAVID JOHN

Ace..... SOPHIE ALDRED

Shreela..... SAKUNTALA RAMANEE

Karra..... LISA BOWERMAN

Squeak..... ADELE SILVA

Neighbour..... MICHELLE MARTIN

Incidental music DOMINIC GLYNN

Visual effects designer

MALCOLM JAMES

Script editor ANDREW CARTMEL

Designer NICK SOMERVILLE

Producer JOHN NATHAN-TURNER

Director ALAN WAREING

● CEEFAX SUBTITLES

Back in time with Doctor Who

As it appears that there is not going to be a new series of *Doctor Who* until 1991 at the earliest, I wondered whether the BBC might at last consent to showing again some of the earlier episodes.

I would certainly prefer to watch *26 Years of Doctor Who* than another run of *22 Years of the Two Ronnies*...

Robert Moss
Oxford

☐ Change of sex?

I was delighted to read Peter Cregeen's assurances that *Doctor Who* was not to be axed, but would ask that for the next series he might consider having an actress playing the Doctor. After all if the Doctor can metamorphosise into different male bodies, why not into a female one? You could maybe also then give the Doctor a young male fellow traveller.

I would also suggest that the actress Beryl Reid would make the perfect female Doctor Who as she is excellent at playing slightly eccentric parts and could reintroduce the original recipe of humour and drama the series once had.

Carole Haynes-Curtis
Exeter, Devon

Seven faces of Doctor Who

I agree with Robert Moss (*Letters* 13-19 January) that there should be a *Seven Faces of Doctor Who* series to fill out the gap between seasons 26 and 27. My suggestions for the series are (bearing in mind which tapes still exist in the BBC archives) *The Web Planet*, *The Mind Robber*, *The Daemons*, *Pyramids of Mars*, *The Visitation*, *The Five Doctors*, *Revelation of the Daleks* and *The Greatest Show in the Galaxy*.

I disagree with your correspondent Carole Haynes-Curtis about the Doctor being played by a woman. However, I do think the Doctor could do with a male assistant.

I wish the new production team the best of luck with the next series of *Doctor Who* and hope they can match the excellent standard set by John Nathan-Turner and co.

Clive Huggett
Horley, Surrey

☐ Granddaughter

Within the context of the series there is quite definite proof that Timelords are not hermaphrodite organisms capable of sex change.

The first Doctor travelled with Susan, his granddaughter, while later one of the Doctor's companions fell in love with, and married, a Timelord – hopefully not expecting him to change into a woman later on...

John Gorman
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Last word on Doctor Who

With regard to the recent letters about a change of sex for Doctor Who, with Beryl Reid in the starring role . . . Imagine the scene: Beryl appears as the Doctor, accompanied by her young male fellow traveller. Enter a third performer, a male actor in his early 40s; Michael Elphick, perhaps.

Elphick stares at Reid, open-mouthed. Finally he speaks: 'Grandfather?'

Reid gazes back at him, her face warming into a smile of vague

recognition. 'Good heavens! Is it really you . . . Susan?'

As the fifth Doctor would have said, I think not!

*David Muir
Kirkwall, Orkney*

This correspondence is now closed –
LETTERS EDITOR.